

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended): A polarizing plate comprising a polarizer and a protective film laminated on one side or both sides of the polarizer:
 - wherein the polarizer comprises a monolayer film having a structure having a minute domain dispersed in a matrix formed of a translucent water-soluble resin including an iodine light absorbing material, and;

wherein the protective film satisfies an in-plane retardation, which is expressed by $R_e = (n_x - n_y) \times d$, of 20 nm or less, and a thickness direction retardation, which is expressed by $R_{th} = \{(n_x + n_y) / 2 - n_z\} \times d$, of 30 nm or less,

where the direction along with the refractive index in the film plane is maximum is defined as the X-axis, a direction perpendicular to the X-axis as the Y-axis, the thickness direction of the film as the Z-axis, and where refractive indices in each axial direction are defined as n_x , n_y , and n_z , respectively, and the thickness of the film as d (nm).

2. (Original): The polarizing plate according to Claim 1, wherein the minute domain of the polarizer is formed of an oriented birefringent material.

3. (Original): The polarizing plate according to Claim 2, wherein the birefringent material shows liquid crystalline at least in orientation processing step.

4. (Currently Amended): The polarizing plate according to Claim 2 [[or 3]], wherein the minute domain of the polarizer has 0.02 or more of birefringence.

5. (Currently Amended): The polarizing plate according to ~~any one of Claims 2 to 4~~ Claim 2, wherein in a refractive index difference between the birefringent material forming the minute domain of the polarizer and the translucent water-soluble resin in each optical axis direction,

a refractive index difference (Δn^1) in direction of axis showing a maximum is 0.03 or more, and

a refractive index difference (Δn^2) between the Δn^1 direction and a direction of axes of two directions perpendicular to the Δn^1 direction is 50% or less of the Δn^1 .

6. (Currently Amended): The polarizing plate according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 5~~ Claim 1, wherein an absorption axis of the iodine light absorbing material of the polarizer is oriented in the Δn^1 direction.

7. (Currently Amended): The polarizing plate according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 6~~ Claim 1, wherein the film used as the polarizer is manufactured by stretching.

8. The polarizing plate according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 7~~ Claim 1, wherein the minute domain ~~of the polarizer~~ has a length of 0.05 to 500 μm in ~~the Δn^2 direction~~ a direction perpendicular to the direction of an axis showing a maximum refractive index difference between the birefringent material forming the minute domain and the translucent water-soluble resin.

9. (Currently Amended): The polarizing plate according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 8~~ Claim 1, wherein an iodine light absorbing material of the polarizer has an absorbing band at least in a band of 400 to 700 nm wavelength range.

10. (Currently Amended): The polarizing plate according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 9~~ Claim 1,

the protective film comprise at least one selected from the group of a resin compound that contains a thermoplastic resin (A) having substituted and/or non-substituted imide group in a side chain and a thermoplastic resin (B) having substituted and/or non-substituted phenyl group and nitrile group in a side chain, and a norbornene-based resin.

11. (Currently Amended): The polarizing plate according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 10~~ Claim 1, wherein a transmittance to a linearly polarized light in a transmission direction is 80% or more,

a haze value is 5% or less , and

a haze value to a linearly polarized light in an absorption direction is 30% or more.

12. (Currently Amended): An optical film comprising at least one of the polarizing plate according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 11~~ Claim 1.

13. (Currently Amended): An image display comprising the polarizing plate according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 11 or the optical film according to Claim 12~~ Claim 1.

14. (New): An image display comprising the optical film according to Claim 12.